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Science and Humanities

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Resolution to Limit New Construction to Replacement Buildings to Avoid Carbon Pollution Adopted **February 2, 2015**

Whereas: The accumulation of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere due to the burning of fossil fuels is the prime contributor to a warming climate; and

Whereas; It takes hundreds of years for CO₂ to be removed from the atmosphere, including CO₂ emissions resulting from discretionary building construction; and

Whereas; In 2006, President Jo Ann Gora was one of twelve founding signatories launching the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), thereby pledging Ball State to move to climate neutrality; in 2014 President Paul Ferguson became Vice Chair of the ACUPCC Steering Committee; since 2000 BSU has been a leader in greening American campuses; and

Whereas; Constructing any building involves activities that release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, from materials extraction (mining materials, harvesting timber), processing the materials (grinding rock, milling timber, baking limestone for quicklime for use in making cement), transporting the materials, constructing of the building, to the hauling and processing of construction debris; and

Whereas; Fossil-fuel energy used in building operations results in CO₂ emissions to the atmosphere; and

Whereas; New buildings can incorporate design innovations and renewable energy capabilities that make them more efficient than older buildings; and

Whereas; Demolition of older buildings and removal of demolition debris results in CO₂ emissions to the atmosphere;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council on the Environment recommends that any new buildings constructed during the next 15 years be limited to those replacing an older building with high associated CO₂ emissions such that the demolition of the old building and the construction and operations of the new building during the next 15 years will result in lower emissions than the continued operations of the old building during the same time period.